UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/388,891	09/02/1999	CLAUS SKAANNING	10991814-1	4611

22879	7590	11/28/2006

HEWLETT PACKARD COMPANY
P O BOX 272400, 3404 E. HARMONY ROAD
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ADMINISTRATION
FORT COLLINS, CO 80527-2400

EXAMINER
GARCIA, GABRIEL I

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2625	

DATE MAILED: 11/28/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 10/03)

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	09/388,891	SKAANNING, CLAUS
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Gabriel I. Garcia	2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *02 May 2005*.
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) *1-33* is/are pending in the application.
    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☒ Claim(s) *20-25* is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) *1-8,11,15-19 and 26-28* is/are rejected.
7) ☒ Claim(s) *9,10,12-14 and 29-33* is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on *02 September 1999* is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
    a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
      1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
      2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
      3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)
1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that

form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1.   Claims 1-7, 15-18 and 26-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being

anticipated by Tsuyama et al.

Note "a cause editor interface that allows an author to place, in a cause data

structure, information pertaining to cause of malfunction of the product" (terminal

apparatus capable of inputting new fault information by maintenance engineer, see lines

60-63 of column 2 and lines 17-21 of column 3), "an action editor interface that allows

an author to place, in an action data structure, information pertaining to actions that can

be taken to correct malfunction of the product" (an unit for generating information

concerning adjustment or repair of the product suffering from the fault, see lines 1-2 of

column 3) and "a question editor interface that allows an author to place, in a question

data structure, information pertaining to questions that can be asked a user of the

product to help identify cause of malfunction of the product" (an unit for generating

information concerning structure and the characteristics of the product, see lines 1-6 of

column 3) as claimed in claim 1 of the application and taught by Tsuyama et al.

Note "a library of modules, at least one of the modules contain troubleshooting

information about a component of the product" (a plurality of modules, i.e. library

includes fault analysis/predicting module, see lines 6-34 of column 13) as claimed in

claim 2 of the application and taught by Tsuyama et al.

Note "author can save the library of modules to a disk storage device, load the library

of modules from the disk storage device, load the library of modules from the disk

storage device an create a new library of modules" (fault information is edited on a

computer, which would inherently permit loading, saving and creating module file) as

claimed in claim 3 of the application.

Note "author can select modules from the library of modules when building the

automated troubleshooter for the product" (a plurality of modules, i.e. library includes

fault analysis/predicting module, see lines 6-34 of column 13) as claimed in claim 4 of

the application and taught by Tsuyama et al.

Note "author can create new modules and delete modules" (fault information is edited

in a computer, which would inherently permit creating and deleting of module files) as

claimed in claim 5 of the application.

Note, "author can rename modules and import modules from other libraries of

modules" (fault information is edited on a computer, which would inherently permit

renaming and import modules files) as, claimed in claim 6 of the application.

Note "name of the cause" (ID of individual fault node, see lines 21-41 of column 9),

"parent of the cause" (parent of individual node, see line 24 of column 9), "explanation

of the cause" (for symptom or test procedure, see lines 25-27 of column 9) and

"probability of the cause being source of malfunction" (see lines 31-36 of column 9) as

claimed in claim 7 of the application and taught by Tsuyama et al.

Note cause editor, action editor and question editor "create ....   entries" (information is edited on a computer, which would inherently permit creating module files) as claimed in claim 15 of the application.

Note cause editor, action editor and question editor "edit existing entries" (information is edited on a computer, which would inherently permit edit existing module files) as claimed in claim 16 of the application.

Note cause editor, action editor and question editor "delete ....   entries" (information is edited on a computer, which would inherently permit deleting module files) as claimed in claim 17 of the application.

Note "cause editor interface that allows an author to place, in a cause data structure, information pertaining to causes of malfunction of the product" (terminal apparatus capable of inputting new fault information by maintenance engineer, see lines 60-63 of column 2 and lines 17-21 of column 3), "name of the cause" (ID of individual fault node, see lines 21-41 of column 9), "parent of the cause" (parent of individual node, see line 24 of column 9), "explanation of the cause" (for symptom or test procedure, see lines 25-27 of column 9) and "probability of the cause being source of malfunction" (see lines 31-36 of column 9) as claimed in claim 18 of the application and taught by Tsuyama et al.

Note "troubleshooter model editor interlace that allows the author to place in a troubleshooter model structure, information pertaining to malfunction of the product" (fault tree is edited by terminal apparatus capable of inputting new fault information by

maintenance engineer, see lines 54-63 of column 2) and "library module editor interface that allows the author to place in a library data structure information pertaining to modules corresponding with components of the product" (a plurality of modules, i.e. library includes fault analysis/predicting module are edited, see lines 6-34 of column 13) as claimed in claim 26 of the application and taught by Tsuyama et al.

Note "name of a component of a module" (ID of individual fault node, see lines 21-41 of column 9), "causes of the component malfunctioning" (symptom, see lines 25-27 of column 9), "action that can resolve malfunctioning of the component" (information concerning adjustment or repair of the product suffering from the fault, see lines 1-2 of column 3) and "questions that can provide information about the causes of the component malfunctioning" (information concerning structure and the characteristics of the product, see lines 1-6 of column 3) as claimed in claim 27 of the application and taught by Tsuyama et al.

Note "name of a component of a module" (ID of individual fault node, see lines 21-41 of column 9), "causes of the component malfunctioning" (symptom, see lines 25-27 of column 9), "action that can resolve malfunctioning of the component" (information concerning adjustment or repair of the product suffering from the fault, see lines 1-2 of column 3) and "questions that can provide information about the causes of the component malfunctioning" (information concerning structure and the characteristics of the product, see lines 1-6 of column 3) as claimed in claim 28 of the application and taught by Tsuyama et al.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed

or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the

subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter

as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person

having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.

Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was

made.

2.   Claims 8, 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Tsuyama et al, as applied to claims 1 and/or 8, and in further view of Skeirik.

Tsuyama teaches the invention substantially as caimed. However, Tsuyama does not

teach "dependency on environment" and "indication that a customer is not to access

information pertaining to the cause". Skeirik teaches permitting a user in one

environment access to edit rulebase (i.e. cause) while not giving access to other users

(see lines 37-54 of column 42). Tsuyama and Skeirik are combinable because they are

from the same field of endeavor. At the time of the invention, it would have been

obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to use teachings of Skeirik in the system

of Tsuyama in order to prevent the cause rule base from being changed by person that

was not qualified and prevent new problems from being introduced.

Conclusion

3.   With regard to applicant's argument that Tsuyama et al does not teach the three

separate editor interfaces that allow an author to place information into three separate

data structure. Examiner disagrees with Applicant's conclusion. Examiner assets that

Tsuyama et al. teaches the three separate editor interfaces that allow an author to place

information into three separate data structure. The first interface reads on fig. 1 that

depicts the cause or fault data structure as seen in the fault diagnosis facility which

interfaces with the system to detect errors, second interface reads on fig. 1, item labeled

as improvement activities that adjustment or repairs actions that can be taken to correct

malfunction of the product, and third interface reads on fig. 1, item labeled as collecting

analysis facility which questions the user(s) of product to identify cause of the

malfunction.

4.   Claims 9-14 and 29-33 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base

claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the

limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

5.   Claims 20-25 are allowable over the prior art of record. The prior art of record does

not teach the invention as recited by allowed claims.

6.   **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time

policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE

MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the

shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later

than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

7.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Gabriel I. Garcia whose telephone number is 571-272-

7434. The Examiner can normally be reached Monday-Thursday from 7:30 AM-6:00

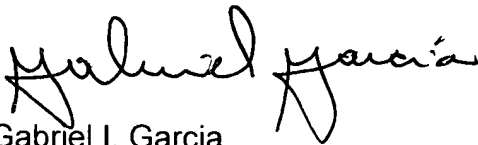PM. The fax phone number for this group is 571-273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should

be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should

you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

GABRIEL GARCIA
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Gabriel I. Garcia

Primary Examiner

November 26, 2006